

**DECLARATION**

We, James R. Leger and Qiwen Zhan, declare that: (1) our respective citizenships and residence/post office addresses are indicated below; (2) we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein, (3) we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter in

**IMAGING ELLIPSOMETRY**

Filing Date: Herewith

Serial No.: Unassigned

described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) we hereby acknowledge our duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.\*

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

- a.  no such applications have been filed.
- b.  such applications have been filed as follows:

| <b>FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER<br/>35 USC §119(a)-(d), §365(a), and/or §365(b)</b> |                    |                                      |                                     |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| COUNTRY  | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) | DATE OF ISSUE<br>(day, month, year) |
|  |                    |                                      |                                     |
|  |                    |                                      |                                     |

| <b>ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)</b> |                    |                                      |                                     |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| COUNTRY   | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) | DATE OF ISSUE<br>(day, month, year) |
|   |                    |                                      |                                     |
|   |                    |                                      |                                     |

\* Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 is reproduced on the attached page.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

- a.  no such applications have been filed.
- b.  such applications have been filed as follows:

| PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, UNDER 35 USC §119(e) |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| APPLICATION NUMBER                                       | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) |
|  |                                      |
|  |                                      |

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications or §365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America, listed below.

- a.  no such applications have been filed.
- b.  such applications have been filed as follows:

| APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING<br>(day, month, year) | STATUS<br>(patented, pending, abandoned) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|                    |                                      |  |
|                    |                                      |  |

Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

*Declaration and Power of Attorney*

*Serial No. Unassigned*

*Filing Date: Herewith*

*Title: IMAGING ELLIPSOMETRY*

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Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and we hereby subscribe our names to the foregoing specification and claims, Declaration and Power of Attorney, on the date indicated below.

Name James R. Leger

Citizenship: USA

Residence/Post Office Address: 19000 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue No., Plymouth, MN 55447

*18-Oct-2000*

Date

Name Qiwen Zhan

Citizenship: People's Republic of China

Residence/Post Office Address: 1631 Carl Street, Apt. #4, Lauderdale, MN 55108

*10/18/2000*

Date

00000000000000000000000000000000

**§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

Assignment  
Serial No. Unassigned  
Filed: Herewith  
For: IMAGING ELLIPSOMETRY

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Karen

co/18/2000

Name: Qiwen Zhan Date  
Address: 1631 Carl Street, Apt. #4, Lauderdale, MN 55108  
Citizenship: People's Republic of China

STATE OF Minnesota )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hennepin )

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 2000 before me personally appeared Qiwen Zhan to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and he executed the same for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Betty Lou Viskocil  
Notary Public

